



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. • April 2021

Wednesday • April 14 • 7:00 pm

## Laughing, Loving, Living a Stress-Free Life

Dr. Jeffrey Smith teaches us how to increase the body's ability to fight off disease and stress. Learn how to prevent injuries through all the latest and greatest on wellness and humor. Be prepared to laugh.

Dr. Smith, DC, is currently chairman of the Doctor's Speakers Bureau and is an active member of the Professional Speakers of Illinois, The American Association for Therapeutic Humor, The National Speakers Association, and the American Heart Association.

He has trained at Chicago's renowned Second City. His studies have included specialized training to teach motivation and successful living.

An invitation will be emailed to each member about a week before the program. If you are new to ZOOM and need assistance, log in around 6:45 pm. Someone will help you get started.



### **Board of Directors**

April 7 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

### **Branch Meeting**

April 14 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

*"Laughing, Loving, Living a Stress-Free Life"*

### **Book Group**

April 22 • 1:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

*"The Space Between Us"*  
by Thrity Umrigar  
Discussion Leader:  
Adrienne Curiale

### **Half the Sky**

April 27 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Lorenzo Rubio, chair of the York HS World Language Dept., will share some insights into the Elmhurst immigrant population

*Links for Zoom meetings will be sent in advance by email*

## REMINDER

AAUW National Election-2021

Member voting takes place from April 7 to May 17, 2021

All voting will take place online from April 7 through May 17, 2021. Members will receive a ballot in an email message. Members without an email address on file with AAUW national will receive notification of the vote by mail. Members can receive a paper ballot by sending a specific request to the AAUW national office.

*The Board of Directors of the Elmhurst Area Branch is unanimously in favor of the amendment for Open Membership and encourages members to vote to support it.*



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289  
Email: info@aauwelmhurst.org

**Mission**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

**Values**

Nonpartisan. Fact-based Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

**Vision**

Equity for all.

**Membership**

The American Association of University Women is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution.

**AAUW FUNDS**

The AAUW Funds support educational fellowships and grants, legal advocacy, public policy, leadership programs and research reports.

**ELMHURST AREA BRANCH NEWS** is published ten times a year (August/September through May) by the American Association of University Women - Elmhurst Area Branch.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

February 28, 2021

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,650.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,416.15</u>
Total	\$20,700.51

# Women’s Equal Pay Day Redux

Women’s Equal Pay Day was on March 24 this year for all groups of U.S. women. This is the day the average woman must work until to earn what the average non-Hispanic white man earned in 2020. This gap persists regardless of experience, job type, background, education, or skills. The gap persists in most workplaces even though the work is in the same job with the same hours.

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly amplified the negative consequences of unequal pay for women especially women of color. Illinois mothers are key family breadwinners in 84% of Black families, 49% of Latinx families, and 48% of white families. When women earn less, families suffer. Women, predominantly women of color, are overrepresented in front-line jobs, the positions most impacted by Covid. These women are risking their lives in health care, childcare, elder care, grocery stores, and other work areas providing all of us the care and food we need to survive the pandemic.

The 2021 Equal Pay Day updated statistics:

- Average of all women: \$0.82 for every dollar men earned in 2020 (In Illinois, the wage gap is even worse, \$0.78 for every dollar)
- AAPI Women (Asian American and Pacific Islander): \$0.85 (but Vietnamese women earn \$0.67, Hmong women earn \$0.61, and Burmese women earn only \$0.52)
- Black women: \$0.60 (their equal pay day is August 3, 2021)
- Native women: \$0.58 (their equal pay day is Sept.8, 2021)
- Latina women: \$0.55 (their equal pay day is Oct. 21, 2021)

Over a 40-year career, a woman starting her career today stands to lose a staggering \$406,280 to the wage gap. But Latinas face typical lifetime losses that total over \$1.1 million and for Black and Native American women, the loss is nearly \$1 million.

These new statistics bring even more urgency to the minimum wage and paycheck fairness legislation.

Jane Jegerski  
Public Policy

(Source: AAUW Equal Pay Day)

## President's Message – April 2021

Welcome spring! After winding up a year of coping with COVID and with more and more of us having been vaccinated, we have reason to be optimistic for a brighter year to come. As with many organizations, the Elmhurst Area Branch of AAUW has had to make many adjustments with both programs and fund-raising this past year. Meetings of both Branch and Board have been via ZOOM. We are hoping to reach our new normal soon and are looking forward to once again being together.

Many thanks to Sally Schuster and Kimberly Miller for arranging the March Branch meeting led by Betsey Means. The program, co-sponsored by the Elmhurst Public Library, focused on Juliette Gordon Low and the establishment of the Girl Scouts.

The April 14 Branch meeting will focus on the program “Laughing, Loving, Living a Stress-Free Life” led by Dr. Jeffrey Smith. We will learn how to increase the body’s ability to fight off disease and stress. We will also focus on preventing injuries through wellness and humor. At this meeting we will also vote on both the slate of officers for 2021 – 2023 and the Branch budget for 2021 – 2022.

The Illinois State Convention, scheduled for April 23 – 24 via ZOOM, will focus on “Equity Empowers – Speak Out for Equity!”. Included on the agenda are several “hot button” topics. These include:

- Focus on confronting systemic racism by Michelle Duster (great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells)
- An AAUW update by Gloria Blackwell, Vice President for Programs and Advancement (ZOOM from the National office)
- STEM by Kimberly Stratton, an engineer
- The impact of the pandemic on women by Dr. Gretchen Goldman

The convention is free but you will need a link to access it; the link will be shared in early April. Consider attending as these are all very significant topics.

As you know, we will also be voting on an amendment to National bylaws. This amendment supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership. The name of our organization will not change. Details on this amendment were shared in our March Branch Newsletter. Voting will begin April 7.

We are now looking forward to getting together in person at the June luncheon to be held at Salt Creek Park. Hopefully everyone will join us for that event.

Respectfully,  
Suzanne Stock, Co-President

### **AAUW Picnic Saturday • June 12, 2021 • 12 noon**

Join us for our final meeting this year: a picnic held at Salt Creek Park on Saturday, June 12, 12 noon. Rosalie’s Deli will supply box lunches for us. Next month a signup flyer will be included in this newsletter with menu choices and cost. Salt Creek Park has a covered shelter and lots of tables.

## Half the Sky

Half the Sky Study Group has been investigating the challenges facing women living south of our border. For a few years we have been building our knowledge base. This month we focused on three groups.

•Al Otro Lado <https://alotrolado.org/> [focused on our southern border]

•The CIRCLE <https://thecircle.ngo> [international]

•Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants ICDI <https://www.icdichicago.org> [ Chicagoland]

All three groups were founded and are run by women. We invite you to look into their websites to see what they are doing.

Our Half the Sky study group wanted to support local efforts so we are independently working on a variety of projects:

This month we will collect pocket-sized wallets [new or gently used] and add twenty dollars in each for ICDI to give immigrants newly released from detention to help them manage their bus trips. Our goal is 20 wallets. As of now we have ten wallets.

We are also continuing to create snack bags for these immigrant/refugee bus travelers. As of now we will have another fifty bags to give ICDI. One of our members has obtained a grant to create even more bags during April . These one-gallon ziplock bags will hold juice and healthy items of food for the bus trips.

ICDI has a need for lightweight jackets now that the weather has begun to warm.

If you have interest in supporting these efforts, contact Betty Laliberte 630-832-9010 [leave a message] or email [bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com](mailto:bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com).

--Betty Laliberte

## AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch 2021 – 2023 Slate of Officers

The Branch Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of new officers to be voted on (Branch meeting on April 14) for two-year terms that will start July 1, 2021.

President

Moira Murray

Program Co-Vice President

Chris White, Kimberly Miller

Membership Co-Vice President

Rosemarie Eck

Recording Secretary

Debra Markello

Director of Finance

Jennifer Jordan

Bylaws and Policies

Patricia O'Dwyer

Public Policy

Jane Jegerski

Directors of Nominating Committee

Jennifer Jordan & Suzanne Stock

Nominations from the floor will be accepted subject to approval by the nominee.

The Committee thanks these ladies for agreeing to serve on the Board.

Rosemarie Eck will be joining Linda Fischer who will be completing her second year as Membership Chair.

The Nominating Committee is composed of directors Carolyn Heiney and Darlene Van Meir, and members Jennifer Jordan and Suzanne Stock.

## Membership: It's Time to Renew!

We need AAUW, and AAUW needs us, now more than ever as we work to restore our social bonds and recover from the economic setbacks women have suffered as a result of the pandemic.

In the near future, all members with an email address will receive a message from our Director of Finance, Moira Murray, with a link to renew your membership for 2021-22. This is by far the quickest and easiest way to renew, for you and for Moira.

Don't lose your link in your inbox - click on it, enter your credit card information, update with any changes in your contact information, and you're done! However, if you prefer, you can fill out the Renewal Form in this newsletter and send it with a check to our P.O. Box.

You'll notice that national dues are increasing by \$3 this year, bringing the total to \$91, of which \$59 is tax-deductible. Our Branch and State dues remain the same.

Special note to 50-year Honorary Life Members: Although you are exempt from paying dues, would you consider making a voluntary contribution to help support Branch activities if you are able?

Your continued membership in Elmhurst AAUW makes it possible for the Elmhurst branch to continue the important work of encouraging, informing, inspiring, and empowering women through local programs, and initiatives. AAUW projects are always worthwhile and the extra reward is the enduring friendships with smart, talented, and energetic women. It is a true source of pride that AAUW is well respected nationally, making a real impact to support equity for women and girls.

# AAUW National Election-2021

## OPEN MEMBERSHIP BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Bylaws Amendment change to be voted on by all members in the AAUW National Election, April 7-May 17, proposes the elimination of the degree requirement for membership. For expanded information, please go to the AAUW National website at [aauw.org/membership](http://aauw.org/membership). Scroll down the page to “2021 National Election” and click on “Open Membership Toolkit” on the right side of the screen. Scroll down this screen to the section titled “Toolkit Resources” which is a dropdown menu of informative articles. And below that is a 9-minute video titled “New Resource: AAUW Member Testimonials” which features four members explaining their support of the Bylaws Amendment. Click this link to open the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbwWYZCmJCs&t=4s>

Additionally, FYI, we all got an email message on Wednesday, 3/23, from Kimberly Churches at AAUW National, inviting members to register and attend two informational webinars. The email subject line is “AAUW Member Webinars: Town Hall and Tools for Having Difficult Conversations.” The first one will take place on April 1, at 3:00pm Central and is titled, “AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education Requirement.” There is a “Register Now” box to click which takes you to a registration screen for each webinar.

## HOW MIGHT THIS BYLAW CHANGE AFFECT MY BRANCH?

It will help protect the future of AAUW by opening up opportunities for funding. Because our current educational degree requirement can be deemed discriminatory and not in keeping with our mission, some foundations and corporations will not donate to our organization since it is counter to their criteria of equity. This disadvantage, along with the now 400-plus organizations competing with AAUW on women’s equity issues for funding, greatly affects National’s ability to get much needed funding. Declining membership, now at 50,000, only provides 15-20% of the annual budget. This is not enough to support branch and member services.

It will make it easier for your branch to recruit a more diverse membership, including those who did not have the opportunity to attend college 30, 40 or 50 years ago. In addition to possibly increasing membership, these new members may bring new energy and viewpoints critical to your branch’s ability to meet the needs of your community through our mission. It will also remove the embarrassing situations when you must tell someone they do not qualify, such as a government official, a non-profit leader or even a Tech Trek parent. Remember, Eleanor Roosevelt and Lily Ledbetter would not qualify for AAUW membership with our current educational requirement.

It will update the relevance and image of your branch as the world reckons with inequality and systemic racism, much of which disproportionately affects women. It might open up more opportunities for collaboration. Having a limiting membership requirement can be considered discriminatory and off-putting to other local like-minded groups. When speaking at community functions, it demeans the branch to say that not everyone can be a member.

It will no longer limit your membership by penalizing women who cannot attain a degree due to today’s skyrocketing educational costs, childcare, elder care, transportation, working multiple jobs and language barriers. Today, there are more alternatives to college degrees which have burdened women with two-thirds of the national college debt. With more careers open to women, i.e., firefighters, pilots, entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, manufacturers, and more, your branch may have the potential for a variety of new members.

## WHAT WON’T CHANGE IF THIS PASSES?

It will not affect AAUW’s status as one of the leaders in graduate grants and fellowships. Due to the generosity of our members our fellowships and grants are fully endowed and will continue in perpetuity.

It will not affect the name – AAUW. Like the YWCA and NAACP, much of the original meanings are no longer accurate. For example, we are international, not just American. We have been open to individuals with associate degrees, not just degrees from universities, since 2005 and open to men since 1987.

It will not affect the honor of having earned a degree in times when so few women attained this achievement. Today, with women outpacing men in earning all degrees for decades, we can proud that we were instrumental in breaking down the barriers for women who followed us.

It will not affect the uniqueness of AAUW. Its uniqueness is its breadth of programming, research, policy, advocacy, fellowships and grants, and grassroots membership.

It will not change your branch’s involvement in local scholarships or interest groups.

It will not change the Mission of the organization. Our Mission is not determined by a degree, but in belief in and dedication to equality for women.

*Thanks - Pat O'Dwyer, By-Laws & Policy*

## Branch Budget Approved

The following is the 2021-2022 Budget was approved by the Board on February 24, 2021.

### Elmhurst Area AAUW 2021-2022 General Fund Budget

INCOME	Budget
Member Dues (based on 57 Paid Members)	1083
September Supper	1000
May Dinner Event	1000
Donations Received	0
501c3 Donations	<u>500</u>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>3583</b>
EXPENSES	
<b>Fees &amp; Services</b>	
Newsletter	60
Yearbook	250
Accounting Review	150
Costs for 501c3 Incorporation	0
General Liability Insurance	215
Publicity and Advertising	125
PO Box Rental	100
Miscellaneous	<u>100</u>
Total	1000
<b>Activities</b>	
September Supper	1000
May Dinner Event	1000
Programs	800
New Member Outreach	<u>80</u>
Total	2880
<b>Contributions</b>	
Outgoing President(s) Named Gift to National	0
Memorials	<u>150</u>
Total	150
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>4030</u></b>
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>-447</b>

### Elmhurst Area AAUW 2021-2022 Fundraiser Budget

INCOME	Budget
Donor Receipts	6100
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6100</b>
EXPENSES	
Labor	0
Room Rental	0
Publicity/Ads	0
Supplies	100
Misc. (gifts, thanks you's bank, etc.)	<u>0</u>
Total	100
Allocation of Funds	
AAUW Funds	3600
Scholarships	
(Returning Scholar and/or Dare to Dream)	2400
Branch Expenses	<u>0</u>
Total	6000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6100</b>

### 2021-2022 Conference Travel Fund Budget

INCOME	Budget
Book Sale Entries	0
Estimated Carryover (2020-2021)	<u>2634</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2634</b>
EXPENSES	
Registration Fees	300
Travel Costs	<u>200</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>2134</b>

# 2021-22 AAUW Membership Form - New and Renewal

## Please complete all information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send check (payable to AAUW-Elmhurst) and this form to:  
AAUW Finance Director, P.O. Box  
243, Elmhurst, IL 60126**

### Please check one:

- Regular Member \$91
- Non C/U partner Student Member \$47.81
- Elmhurst College or other C/U partner Student Member \$29
- Life Member \$29 (branch + state fees only)
- Fifty-Year Honor: Fifty-year members are exempt from association, state and branch dues. Please consider a donation.

### Membership Dues:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Elmhurst AAUW Donation:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Total Check: Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Of the \$62 that we pay to the Association, \$3 goes to support the AAUW Lobby Corps and is not tax deductible. \$59 is payable to AAUW, our 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and is tax deductible.

## Please list all degrees: List additional degrees on back.

Undergraduate College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Year received \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate School \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Year received \_\_\_\_\_

### Interest Inventory

**I have skills and interests in these areas. Check all that apply.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer/technology           | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity/communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization                  | <input type="checkbox"/> financial/AAUW Funds     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> national/local women's issues | <input type="checkbox"/> program planning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> membership                    | <input type="checkbox"/> book sale                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cultural/social activities    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (list) _____       |

**I would like to participate in a study group about \_\_\_\_\_.**